

UNCLASSIFIED 3/25/76

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 1981
~~25 MAR 76 2110~~
25 MAR 76 2110

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

BLØSI

FROM
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

652: GDS
AGS: PINS, PINT, MILL, AR
ECT: Coup in Argentina: Sitrep No.9

ION: Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO Amembassy ASUNCION
" BRASILLIA
" LA PAZ
" MONTEVIDEO
" SANTIAGO

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Gifford, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify. ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

BUENOS AIRES 1991

1. Armed Forces are relaxing their control somewhat as they perceive that there is virtually no opposition to their take-over. Some roadblocks have been taken down, airline flights have resumed, and, most importantly, mil reps told local newsmen this afternoon (Mar 25) that there would be no more prior censorship of press; rather, press simply admonished to show restraint and responsibility (i.e. self-censorship).
2. Employees of Econ and one other ministry were called in today and screening began. Most received clean bills of health and were told to report to work when ministries reopened. A few obvious incompetents were sacked and some, against whom there was firm evidence of malfeasance, were

BY: WSSmith:cc <i>WSS</i>	DRAFTING DATE: 3/25/76	TEL. EXT.: 128	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: CHARGE: HMcLWoodward
CCS: B:MO'Brien (in substance) <i>WSS</i>			

UNCLASSIFIED

78F98
9159

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN

held for investigation. Several employees commented that they felt proceedings and findings to have been most fair (though since those making comments had received clean bills of health they may not have been altogether unbiased).

3. Prison ships, which have been used several times in past, have been put in service again to handle those being detained by new authorities pending investigation.

Mil spokesman told newsmen this afternoon that only some 500-800 had been arrested throughout country. This probably on low side, but, even so, number not believed to be large. Certainly there no evidence of massive arrests.

4. Embassy's contacts among political parties indicate they having no problems. They expect their parties to remain intact and are looking forward to cooperating with new govt. This applies even to great majority of Peronists.

5. Emboffs have run into or spoken informally with several friends in Foreign Ministry. All well and expecting to be back at work within next day or so. Amb Pulit told Emboff whom he saw on street at noon and that he had already conferred with new FonMin Vanek. He had also seen ex-FonMin Quijano Mar 24. Quijano reportedly in good spirits and has no problems with new govt.

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

UNCLASSIFIED


Page 3 of 11

MRN

Pulit himself gave impression of man who not worried about his future.

6. Troops are still in front of all Embassies. Clearly this was move designed to prevent entry of asylees and thus avoid subsequent problems with foreign govts such as those encountered by Chilean govt with Germany and a number of other states.

7. Change of govt has caused so little disruption in Argentina and situation now sufficiently tranquil that Embassy is going off sitrep and returning to reporting by regular cable traffic.


WOODWARD

UNCLASSIFIED